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BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
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CIRCULAR NO. A-7
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Transmittal Memorandum No. 3

TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

SUBJECT: Amendment to Standardized Government Travel Regulations

As a result of recent action by the Interstate Commerce Commission in approving a 15 percent increase in first-class passenger fares of certain eastern railroads, different rates may be charged for comparable transportation services offered by different carriers between the same points (ICC Docket No. 32032, Increased Fares, Official Territory, 1956, decided April 29, 1957). Government policy to be followed in procuring transportation when a choice of rates is available for comparable service is stated in the following amendment to the Standardized Government Travel Regulations, as amended effective August 1, 1956 (Circular No. A-7, Revised, dated June 22, 1956):

Section 3.6, Accommodations on trains, steamers, and airplanes, is amended by adding the following subsection:

e. Rates. -- When two or more common carriers furnishing the same mode of travel charge different rates between the same points for the same type of accommodation, the facilities of the carrier charging the lower rate should be used to the maximum extent possible unless such use (1) would conflict with section 901 of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 (see section 12.11) or (2) would be inadvisable for such reasons as these: (a) It would cause increases in per diem or other costs, with the result that the Government would not gain by using the lower-rate transportation; (b) the routing of the carrier charging the lower rate would not meet the traveler's requirements to make official stops between the points involved; or (c) only the use of the carrier charging the higher rate will permit the traveler to carry out his assigned mission adequately, efficiently, and without undue hardship or inconvenience resulting from such factors as longer total travel time or additional transfers between terminals, trains, boats, or planes. No formal determination or documentation with respect to individual trips shall be required under this subsection.

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Director

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